The Cochin Children Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I rise to move that the Cochin Children Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The primary object of the Bill is to control youthful offenders so as to redeem them wherever possible and to save them from a criminal life. The Bill contemplates that youthful offenders after conviction may be sent to Reformatories in our State or elsewhere so that they may reform and be saved from a criminal life. There is one chapter in the Bill dealing with children who are not youthful offenders, but who are likely to get into trouble and whose habits are likely to get them into trouble by associating with bad society. There is provision for looking after such children also. This measure which has been passed into law in British India and in several other Indian States exists practically in all the civilised countries of the world. I think such youths should be protected as far as possible from straying and that we should redeem them as far as possible. I do not wish to say anything more on this subject. I will be presently moving that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee.

Motion put and carried.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is the Cochin Children Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members: Director of Public Instruction, Director of Public Health and Panchayats, Miss. G. M. D'Souza, Mr. M. V. Cherian, Mr. K. S. Manickam, Mr. K. Ashtamoorthi Namboodiripad and the Government Advocate.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. President.—The Government Advocate will be the Chairman. The Committee will report within three months.

The Cochin village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I rise to move that the

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Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The object of the Bill is to prescribe certain terms for the election of Panchayatdars, and Presidents and other people functioning in connection with Panchayats. Hon'ble members will notice that a long list is appended to the Bill consisting of groupings. The numerous Panchayats, 88 in number, have been grouped and the elections are to take place on fixed dates. It was found in practice that for want of some such arrangement, there was some confusion in the working of the Panchayats and Government considered that this Bill should be passed into law. I am also referring this to a Select Committee.

Motion put and carried.

Secretary to the Council.—The title of the Bill is the Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—The Director of Public Health and Panchayats, Mr. R. Viswanathan Chettiar, Mr. C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar, Mr. T. K. Nayar, Mr. C. R. Iyyunni, Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and the Government Advocate.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—I suggest the name of Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. President.—The Government Advocate will be the Chairman and the Committee is to report within 2 months.

The Cochin Mechanical Lighters Excise Duty Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Cochin Mechanical Lighters' Excise duty Bill be read in Council.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The preamble attached to the Bill explains the object of the Bill. Now that we have gone in for taxing matches it stands to reason that the scheme should not lose sight of mechanical lighters. It is in force in Travan-

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